

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-
SECESSION LAW**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing my grave concern over China's proposed anti-secession law. This highly provocative law greatly increases the risk of a military confrontation across the Taiwan Strait. Specifically, it assumes China and Taiwan are now unified, and it gives China the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, China may use force to push for unification with Taiwan, a scenario we all must work to prevent. This law would have serious consequences for relations between China and Taiwan, and it would threaten stability in the region.

In my district, Idaho State University has developed a unique program, the only program of its kind in the United States, to provide a language and cultural education program for junior diplomatic officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I have spent time discussing the American political system and current events in Taiwan with the junior diplomats, and they have repeatedly expressed their country's desire to avoid confrontation with China. These students look to the United States as a model of freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, we do not need military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait now or anytime in the future. I urge the Chinese leaders to reject the anti-secession law, and I hope the international community will join us in voicing their disapproval of this provocative and dangerous law. Inaction by the United States will only serve to encourage China to escalate its political rhetoric and belligerent action against the democratic Taiwan.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTRAL
BRANCH OF THE ST. LOUIS PUB-
LIC LIBRARY**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Central Branch of the St. Louis Public Library. I am extremely honored to commend them for being recognized as one of the 12 most beautiful and historic libraries in the world. They further hold the distinction as being only one of three U.S. libraries chosen for this honor.

The Central Library building is one of St. Louis's architectural treasures. Architect Cass Gilbert who was the architect for the Saint Louis Art Museum, the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, DC, and the Woolworth Building in New York City was selected to design the building, which opened in 1912.

The Central Branch occupies one city block and features beautiful stained glass windows, hand-stenciled ceilings and glass floors. The exterior of the building is granite with marble panels and relief carvings, decorative medallions, notable authors and inspirational inscriptions. The Periodical Room's carved ceiling is

adapted from Michelangelo's design for the ceiling of the Laurentian Library in Florence and boasts more than 800 current magazines and newspapers.

While an architectural marvel, the library also assists the community with bridging the link between all cultures and nationalities by providing special services to Bosnian, African, Hispanic, German and Asian members of the community through extensive access to books and films in their own language. The Library is also involved in community outreach efforts providing book services to day care and senior centers. It also provides the gift of reading to those who are home-bound by operating bookmobiles and sending books through the mail.

Mr. Speaker, the Central Branch of the St. Louis Public Library has been recognized for its historic beauty and architectural wonder, and its commitment to serving an ever changing landscape of cultures and nationalities; it deserves to be honored for its vital role in educating the leaders of tomorrow.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM D. PAYNE**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life and work of a man whose many achievements I am proud to recognize today, the Honorable William D. Payne. Assemblyman Payne was recognized as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award. It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Rutgers University, Bill began his professional career with the Essex County Welfare Board as a caseworker. His commitment to public service commenced during his tenure as a caseworker and continues today.

Bill's involvement in politics started long before his career in the New Jersey Legislature. As the chairman of the Payne Congressional Campaign Committee in 1988, Bill successfully led the effort to elect his brother, DONALD, to the United States House of Representatives. This was not only a victory for the Payne family, but one for the African American community of New Jersey as well. DONALD PAYNE was the first African-American elected to represent New Jersey in the House of Representatives.

Bill has held several positions that exemplify his devotion to his community. As executive director of One to One New Jersey, Bill oversaw a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging volunteerism and mentoring among New Jersey adults. The participants in the program worked to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged youths and their families.

His commitment to the Essex County community was evident during his tenure with the Essex County Improvement Authority and the Newark Housing Authority, the country's 8th largest public agency. Bill has also donated his time to the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, the United

Negro College Fund Corporation Committee and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Small Business Advisory Council.

Prior to his election to the New Jersey General Assembly, Bill had transitioned into the private sector, establishing William Payne and Associates. Having an extensive background in community service, international government relations and the corporate world; Assemblyman Payne's company specializes in government relations and marketing.

In 1998, William Payne reached the pinnacle moment of his career, when he was elected to represent the 29th Legislative District of New Jersey. Bill holds many positions within the legislature including Commissioner of the Amistad Commission. This commission is a result of his diligent efforts to pass The Amistad Act, a law which requires the inclusion of African-American history in the year-round curriculum for New Jersey's public schools.

The County of Essex and I are far from the first to recognize the many accomplishments of Assemblyman Payne. He has been honored by many community organizations including The Jaycees, the NAACP, The North Ward Cultural Center and the Newark Board of Education to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the extraordinary efforts of public servants like Bill Payne. I ask that you join our colleagues, Bill's family and friends, the great County of Essex, New Jersey and me in recognizing Assemblyman William D. Payne for his long history of leadership and community service.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
JO ANN DAVIDSON**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson has been selected to serve as the co-chairman of the national Republican Party; and,

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson was the first woman to serve as Speaker of the Ohio House, maintained a 20 year career in the Ohio House, and was a driving force behind the passage of a complex electricity deregulation bill in 1999; and

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson should be commended for her work during the grassroots efforts of the 2004 Ohio Republican Party campaign in the Ohio Valley region.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Jo Ann Davidson for her outstanding appointment.

LEADER IN EDUCATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dr. Pete Mehas, of Fresno California. Dr. Mehas has been Fresno